(c) when did it submit its report;

(d) whether it is a fact that substandard medicines are supplied through CGHS as a consequence of the corrupt practices;

(e) whether Government propose to probe into the matter; and

(f) what steps it considers fit to ensure fair practice in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The formulary for the CGHS is reviewed once in two years by a committee presided by Director (CGHS) and includes Chief Medical Officers, Senior Specialists and Additional Director (Stores).

(b) The Formulary Committee was last constituted on 2nd June, 1995. The Chairman of the Committee was changed on 2nd January, 1996 following the retirement of the previous chairman.

(c) The report was submitted on 22nd February, 19%.

(d) to (f) The questions do not arise as the medicines supplied by the Medical Stores Organisation are of standard quality as each and every batch of medicines is tested in a Government approved Laboratory for its quality, before acceptance by the Medical Stores Organisation.

Development of North-Eastern region as tourist region

1538. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop North-Eastern Region/Assam into an attractive tourist region; and

(b) if so, the- details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The development of tourism is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. However, the Department of Tourism. Government of India has constituted a Task Force for the development of tourism in the North-Eastern Region.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has identified 18 projects in consultation with the State Government's to provide Central Financial Assistance during 1996-97 for the development of tourism in the North-Eastern Region.

A project for the preparation of a Tourism Master Plan in Assam has also been sanctioned.

Popularisation of heart shrink surgery in place of heart transplant

1539. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Asia pacific region's first heart shrink surgery which is resorted to in cases where hitherto heart's successful transplant was the only remedy, was performed at the Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre on May 31, 1996; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken to popularise this mode of heart-surgery in cases of "buffalo-heart" patients instead of going in for heart transplant exercise and for giving due recognition to the talented surgeon(s)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This surgical procedure is still in the process of trial/standardisation.